

Becoming an Accountant

The Numbers:

Average Salary* (Boston)

\$61,000

Average Salary* (U.S.)

\$58,000

**Number of Licenses
in Massachusetts**

14,840

* According to cbsalary.com

How to become an Accountant

- You must be 18 years of age or older, and
- Have completed 120 of the 150 semester hours (or 180 of the 225 quarter hours) of college or university education from a nationally or regionally accredited institution as required for licensure certification by 252 CMR 2.07(2), AND
- Include 21 semester hours of accounting courses including coverage in:
 - Financial accounting
 - Auditing
 - Taxation
 - Management Accounting, AND
- Include 9 semester hours of business courses including coverage in:
 - Business law



Division of
Professional Licensure

Better businesses. Smarter consumers.

www.mass.gov/dpl

A Day in the Life of an ACCOUNTANT

By, Anonymous

What made you want to become an Accountant?

I attended Suffolk University in Boston and decided to follow in my father's footsteps by majoring in accounting. While in school, I learned about professional/public accounting and upon graduation I was able to get an entry level job in a national accounting firm.

What should people know before they enter your field ?

Before one decides to become a public accountant, it is best to get a little experience through an internship or part-time arrangement. For those who do decide that they would like to pursue this career path, it is reassuring to know that the need for people in the industry is as strong as I have ever seen in my 25 years in the profession. I don't see that changing anytime soon. Also, a good mix of technical and communication skills are a powerful combination to possess.

What is a typical work day like for you?

I am a founding partner of a local CPA firm, so I wear several hats in the firm. I work with business clients, I am the firm's Human Resource partner and I am also the firm's accounting & auditing quality control partner. My days are usually made up of some mix of the aforementioned 8 to 10 hours a day and 40 to 60 hours a week, depending on the time of year.

Website: www.mass.gov/dpl

Email: dpl.outreach@state.ma.us

Becoming an Architect

The Numbers:

Average Salary* (Boston)

\$70,523

Average Salary* (U.S.)

\$61,646

**Number of Licenses
in Massachusetts**

6,208

* According to cbsalary.com

How to become an Architect

- Graduate with a degree accredited by the National Architectural Accreditation Board (NAAB).
- Complete the Intern Development Program (IDP).
- Complete and pass are given by the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB).



**Division of
Professional Licensure**

Better businesses. Smarter consumers.

www.mass.gov/dpl

A Day in the Life of an ARCHITECT

**By D. Engebretson, Chair of the Board of
Registration of Architects**

What made you want to become an architect?

As a child I was always interested in creative activities, such as woodworking, painting and sketching. In eighth grade I was required to write a report identifying a prospective career choice and architecture was the obvious one.

What should people know before they enter your field?

People who are interested in this field should enjoy being creative and helping people solve building related problems. Become an architect because you really enjoy creative work and collaborating with others in a team effort. Also be aware that one needs to complete a lengthy education and training program.

What is a typical work day like for you?

My day usually runs from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. with some night meetings with building committees.

Website: www.mass.gov/dpl

Email: dpl.outreach@state.ma.us

Becoming a Barber

The Numbers:

Average Salary* (Boston)

\$38,402

Average Salary* (U.S.)

\$32,544

**Number of Licenses
in Massachusetts**

4,856

* According to cbsalary.com

How to become a Barber

- You must be 16 years of age.
- 1000 hours of schooling in a state-licensed facility. 2 years of on-the-job training and/or schooling; and a sanitation and sterilization course if out-of-country experience presented.
- If trained by a Massachusetts Barber School, an apprentice Barber may apply to sit for the Master License after holding the apprentice license for 18 months.
- Barber licenses expire bi-annually on 12/31/2008. Continuing Education is not required.



**Division of
Professional Licensure**

Better businesses. Smarter consumers.

www.mass.gov/dpl

A Day In the Life of a BARBER

**By Zane Skerry, Executive Director of the
Board of Registration of Barbers**

What made you want to become a barber?

I went to Barber School for 6 months (1000 hours) and then took exams to become a licensed Apprentice in 1971.

What do you enjoy most about your profession?

The part of my profession that I enjoy the most is the feeling of satisfaction you get when the client is smiling and happier than when he came through the door. It is truly a pleasure to work with the public on a daily basis.

What should people know before they enter your field?

A person that is interested in this profession should understand that it may take time to become financially established within the field. As you become proficient at your craft, you will find your profits increase from when you first start in the business. Also, it is important to exercise and learn the proper standing technique to decrease the likelihood of on-the-job injuries.

Website: www.mass.gov/dpl

Email: dpl.outreach@state.ma.us

Becoming a Cosmetologist

The Numbers:

Average Salary* (Boston)
\$33,410

Average Salary* (U.S.)
\$26,787

**Number of Licenses
in Massachusetts**
60,922

* According to cbsalary.com

How to become an Cosmetologist

- Graduate from an accredited school.
- Pass the state board exam.



**Division of
Professional Licensure**

Better businesses. Smarter consumers.

www.mass.gov/dpl

A Day in the Life of a COSMETOLOGY INSTRUCTOR

**By Karen Bonney, Member of the Board of
Registration of Cosmetologists**

What made you want to become a cosmetologist?

I love anything to do with styling hair, improving skin and nails, and making people feel better.

What should people know before they enter your field?

People who are interested in the field of cosmetology should know that it takes time and money to attend school, but it is well worth it as your pay reflects your education. Also, that there is always a job if your work ethic is there.

What is a typical work day like for you?

In the morning, I take attendance, check uniforms, and go over any problems or student concerns from the previous day. I then teach a class according to what subject matters need to be reviewed. We start clients, and in the afternoon the students attend tech class (their book work). At the end of the day, students style one another and then we complete sanitation (check on all the cleaning, towels, etc).

Website: www.mass.gov/dpl

Email: dpl.outreach@state.ma.us

Becoming a Dietitian/ Nutritionist

The Numbers:

Average Salary* (Boston)

\$48,036

Average Salary* (U.S.)

\$42,822

**Number of Licenses
in Massachusetts**

2,030

* According to cbsalary.com

How to become a Dietitian/ Nutritionist

- Obtain a Bachelor's degree in Human Nutrition or related field AND 3 years of post degree experience OR
- Obtain a Master's Degree in Human Nutrition AND 2 years of post degree experience OR
- Obtain a Doctoral Degree in Human Nutrition AND 1 year of post degree experience.
- Good Moral Character (references and possible criminal history background check).
- Pass Examination.
- Complete 30 hours of Continuing Education every 2 years.
- If Bachelor's degree is not in Human Nutrition, 39 semester hours of certain courses are required.
- Those individuals who are also Registered Dietitians through the American Dietetic Association (ADA) may use their ADA Approved internship in place of the 3 years experience.



**Division of
Professional Licensure**

Better businesses. Smarter consumers.

www.mass.gov/dpl

A Day in the Life of a DIETITIAN/NUTRITIONIST

**By Lorraine Dox, Member of the Board of
Registration of Dietitians and Nutritionists**

What made you want to become a Dietitian/ Nutritionist?

I became interested in the field of nutrition partly because of my father's health and partly because of an interest in becoming a healthier person. When I finally acknowledged that all I wanted to do with my spare time was to read about nutrition, I decided to make nutrition my career choice.

What should people know before they enter your field?

A person that wants to pursue a career as a dietitian or nutritionist should know that there is a lot of education and training involved and you need to feel comfortable with the principles of science. If you do decide to work in this profession the upside is that there are many different opportunities for Registered Dietitians in corporate, health care and other settings.

What is a typical work day like for you? As a Renal Dietitian, I work with patients who come to our dialysis center 2 to 3 times a week to receive a life-saving dialysis treatment or who perform the dialysis at home. I have a chronic patient population; thus, I can form professional long-term relationships with these patients. My tasks include: counseling patients on the diet recommendations for people on dialysis; analyzing and interpreting lab values and conveying this information to patients and the health care team; make recommendations for medications that would help patient's nutrition-related lab values; communicating with physicians and nurses via email, telephone or in person; completing long and short-term care plans and attending care plan meetings with teammates and physicians; preparing continuous quality improvement (CQI) data; preparing for and presenting teammate education; and preparing informational bulletin boards for patients.

Website: www.mass.gov/dpl

Email: dpl.outreach@state.ma.us

Becoming an Operator of Drinking Supply Facilities

The Numbers:

Average Salary* (Boston)

\$83,015

Average Salary* (U.S.)

\$72,074

**Number of Licenses
in Massachusetts**

4,520

* According to cbsalary.com

How to become an Operator of Drinking Supply Facilities

- Pass State board examination.
- Submit application for Board determination of type class.



**Division of
Professional Licensure**

Better businesses. Smarter consumers.

www.mass.gov/dpl

A Day in the Life of an OPERATOR OF A DRINKING WATER SUPPLY FACILITY

**By Robert Hoyt, member of the Board of
Certification of Drinking Water Supply Facilities**

What made you want to become an operator of a drinking water supply facility?

After getting drafted to serve in the Army, I attended the University of Massachusetts under the G.I. bill and majored in Environmental Science. At the time, pollution was just beginning to be recognized as a serious problem and a career to help the environment seemed to be a fulfilling way to make a living. After graduating, I went to work in the Springfield Water Department's West Parish Filters Lab.

What should people know before they enter your field?

Someone who is interested in this profession should understand that although a college degree is not required, a good education in basic science and math is necessary to pass the operator's exam.

What is a typical work day like for you?

As a primary operator of a large water system, I manage a number of operators working both the day and night shifts. I start the day communicating with the operators to find out if any problems have occurred and what was done to correct the problem. I also find out if any further equipment or maintenance personnel are needed. If there are no pressing issues, I go through Department mail and e-mail. As the primary operator, I am also responsible for generating reports to various state agencies on water quality, quantity, and safety.

Website: www.mass.gov/dpl

Email: dpl.outreach@state.ma.us

Becoming an Electrician

The Numbers:

Average Salary* (Boston)

\$58,463

Average Salary* (U.S.)

\$45,873

**Number of Licenses
in Massachusetts**

34,688

* According to cbsalary.com

How to become an Electrician

Successfully complete minimum education requirements:

- Master -150 hours of classroom instruction.
- Journeyman-600 hours of classroom instruction.
- System contractor- 75 hours of classroom instruction.
- System technician-300 hours of classroom instruction.

Work Experience:

- Master—hold your current journeyman license in good standing with the Board for one year.
- Journeyman - 8000 hour of supervision over a period of not less than 4 years.
- System contractor - hold your current technician's I license in good standing with the Board for one year.
- System technician - 4000 hours of supervision over a period of not less than 2 years.



**Division of
Professional Licensure**

Better businesses. Smarter consumers.

www.mass.gov/dpl

A Day in the Life of an ELECTRICIAN

**By Donald Drew, Member of the Board of
State Examiners of Electricians**

What made you want to become an electrician?

My family was in the same business, and I was influenced to follow in their footsteps.

What should people know before they enter your field?

People will enjoy work as an electrician if they are mechanically inclined.

What is a typical work day like for you?

On a daily basis I deal with project management, obtaining quotes, and management of finances.

Website: www.mass.gov/dpl

Email: dpl.outreach@state.ma.us

Becoming an Engineer

The Numbers:

Average Salary* (Boston)
\$75,000

Average Salary* (U.S.)
\$70,000

**Number of Licenses
in Massachusetts**
16,089

* According to cbsalary.com

How to become an Engineer

- Bachelor's degree in Engineering from an accredited school. Other degrees accepted, but will require more experience.
- Complete supervised experience (ranging from 3-8 years depending on education).
- Pass Fundamentals of Engineering exam.
- Obtain Engineer in Training Certificate.
- Pass Principles and Practices examination.
- Good moral character (references and possible criminal history background check).



Division of
Professional Licensure

Better businesses. Smarter consumers.

www.mass.gov/dpl

A Day in the Life of an ENGINEER

**By Joel Goodmonson, Member of the Board
of Registration of Professional Engineers
and Professional Land Surveyors**

What made you want to become an Engineer?

I was always good at math and science and my high school math teacher recommended that I try engineering. When I entered college, I decided to explore the profession by enrolling in the general engineering program. After a couple of years I discovered that I was interested in structural engineering, and therefore transferred into the civil engineering department and focused on structural engineering.

What should people know before they enter your field?

Engineers tend not to get headlines or a lot of attention. If you like problem solving and don't mind not getting the credit, engineering is a great profession. Engineering does not pay as well as some other professions; however, as an engineer you will almost never want for work and you will always earn a decent salary.

What is a typical workday like for you?

I generally get to my office at about 7:30 in the morning and then put together my to-do-list and meet with my senior staff to review the hot items for the day. Afterwards I begin my typical workday that includes writing several letters, working on structural design and attending client meetings. I generally leave the office just before 6:00 p.m.

**Website: www.mass.gov/dpl
Email: dpl.outreach@state.ma.us**

Becoming a Health Officer

The Numbers:

Average Salary* (Boston)

\$77,123

Average Salary* (U.S.)

\$65,309

**Number of Licenses
in Massachusetts**

122

* According to cbsalary.com

How to become a Health Officer

- Degree (minimum 45 credits) in public health, the biologic, environmental, sanitary or related sciences.
- Pass Certification Examination.
- Completion of one year of experience in a position requiring administrative responsibility for public health programs.



**Division of
Professional Licensure**

Better businesses. Smarter consumers.

www.mass.gov/dpl

A Day in the Life of a HEALTH OFFICER

By Joanne Scott

What made you want to be a Health Officer?

One of my first jobs after completing a BS degree in Biology was as a Health Inspector for a local Board of Health. I found the field to be very broad and interesting. While a Health Inspector, I decided that I wanted to stay in the field of public health, so I enrolled part time at the Boston University School of Public Health.

What should people know before they enter your field?

A person needs to be confident and not easily upset because you often are dealing with members of the public who believe their public health complaint is the most important issue you are facing. One needs to enjoy handling many vastly different topics in a short period of time, such as a contagious disease issue, a neighborhood rodent complaint, routine restaurant inspection and potential lead poisoning of a child.

What is a typical work day like for you?

I work approximately 40-50 hours per week. Everyday is different and may include multiple meetings, seminars, inspections, presentations, and telephone calls. The overall daily goal of my profession is to prevent illness, promote wellness, and prepare for emergencies.

Website: www.mass.gov/dpl

Email: dpl.outreach@state.ma.us

Becoming a Home Inspector

The Numbers:

Average Salary* (Boston)
\$50,000

Average Salary* (U.S.)
\$43,000

**Number of Licenses
in Massachusetts**

534

* According to cbsalary.com

How to become a Home Inspector

- Complete 25 inspections under the supervision of a licensed Massachusetts Home Inspector.
- Successfully pass the National Home Inspector Exam.
- Obtain \$250,000 of errors and omissions insurance.
- Apply for the associate Home Inspector's license.
- Complete an additional 100 home inspections under the direction of a licensed home inspector.
- Apply for licensure .
- Commencing 5/31/08 a 75-hour Board approved course will be required.



**Division of
Professional Licensure**

Better businesses. Smarter consumers.

www.mass.gov/dpl

A Day in the Life of a HOME INSPECTOR

**By Steve Cook, Chair of the Board of
Registration of Home Inspectors**

What made you want to become a Home Inspector?

My father-in-law owned South Shore Home Inspections. I started working with him in 1984, and he taught me everything I know about being a Professional Home Inspector.

What should people know before they enter your field?

Someone who is interested in the home inspection field should possess strong carpentry skills and a general knowledge of the electrical and plumbing trades. Good communication skills are also imperative and a lot of patience comes in handy as well.

What is a typical work day like for you?

I begin my work day at 6:15 a.m. and go to the first job site at 7:30 a.m. I typically do 2 or 3 jobs per day.

Website: www.mass.gov/dpl

Email: dpl.outreach@state.ma.us

Becoming a Landscape Architect

The Numbers:

Average Salary* (Boston)

\$54,943

Average Salary* (U.S.)

\$50,652

**Number of Licenses
in Massachusetts**

791

* According to cbsalary.com

How to become a Landscape Architect

- Graduate from an accredited school.
- Must have at least 2 years full time work experience under direct supervision of a licensed Landscape Architect.
- Pass the Landscape Architect Registration Exam (LARE).



**Division of
Professional Licensure**

Better businesses. Smarter consumers.

www.mass.gov/dpl

A Day in the Life of a LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

**By Marion Pressley, Member of the Board of
Registration of Landscape Architects**

What made you want to become a landscape architect?

At the end of my junior year of high school, I learned about the profession under the guidance of an architect whose children were in a day camp I was running during the summer. This person provided me with several books on the profession and answered my many questions, in addition to providing a list of schools to attend.

What should people know before they enter your field?

A person who is interested in becoming a landscape architect should do it for personal satisfaction, and not financial gains. If you enjoy working with all types of people and the natural systems of our planet, this job is for you.

What is a typical working day like for you?

I work 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. in an office. In the spring, summer, and fall, however, I can be out in the field several hours a week. Also, I travel for meetings several hours a week and I am often out of town.

Website: www.mass.gov/dpl

Email: dpl.outreach@state.ma.us

Becoming a Massage Therapist

The Numbers:

Average Salary* (Boston)
\$30,644

Average Salary* (U.S.)
\$23,430

**Number of Licenses
in Massachusetts**
6,622

* According to cbsalary.com

How to become a Massage Therapist

- Complete “License Application” form (signed & notarized).
- Official, sealed transcript (minimum 500 hours training).
- Two letters of reference.
- Liability Insurance Policy Declarations Page.



Division of
Professional Licensure

Better businesses. Smarter consumers.

www.mass.gov/dpl

A Day in the Life of a MASSAGE THERAPIST

By Anonymous

What made you want to become a massage therapist?

My family was involved in Traditional Chinese Medicine and I grew up with an interest in bodywork. I later studied with a martial arts teacher who also specialized in healing. I finally got into the profession when my friends, on whom I had been practicing massage therapy, introduced me to nurses and patients suffering from chronic pain in a hospital. I was then asked to provide treatment and education of self-maintenance to people with these issues.

What should people know before they enter your field?

Massage therapy is an ideal alternative to medicine and surgeries in the treatment of many chronic disorders. The ultimate reward of this profession is in helping and providing relief to your clients.

What is a typical work day like for you?

I practice massage therapy once a week, servicing typically 5 to 6 clients each day. I also train students 4 to 5 hours a week.

**Website: www.mass.gov/dpl
Email: dpl.outreach@state.ma.us**

Becoming an Occupational Therapist

The Numbers:

Average Salary* (Boston)
\$55,259

Average Salary* (U.S.)
\$53,738

**Number of Licenses
in Massachusetts**
4,596

* According to cbsalary.com

How to become an Occupational Therapist

- All applicants must submit an application to Professional Credential Services (PCS) at www.pcshq.com. An applicant must show proof of passing the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) examination or proof of intent to take the examination.
- An applicant must provide an official transcript or certificates of completion for all academic and fieldwork requirements.



Division of
Professional Licensure

Better businesses. Smarter consumers.

www.mass.gov/dpl

A Day in the Life of an OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST

**By Nancy Lowenstein, Member of the Board
of Registration in Allied Health Professionals**

What made you want to become an occupational therapist?

I was mentored by a registered Occupational Therapist at another position and decided to pursue the field as it had greater job opportunities and growth potential than my current job as Activities Director at a long-term care facility.

What should people know before they enter your field?

People who are interested in the profession should understand the differences between Occupational Therapy (OT) and Physical Therapy. There are science courses, specifically gross anatomy and neuroanatomy/physiology, and other required prerequisites for anyone who wishes to enter the OT field. Also, this profession is best suited for those who enjoy working with individuals, groups, or communities, and populations.

What is a typical work day like for you?

In my clinical work, I see clients who have Multiple Sclerosis. I help them to manage their symptoms more effectively by teaching them techniques and helping them establish new habits and routines. I look at the environment in which they live and work, the support systems around them, and often involve family and caregivers in my treatment sessions.

Website: www.mass.gov/dpl

Email: dpl.outreach@state.ma.us

Becoming a Physical Therapist

The Numbers:

Average Salary* (Boston)

\$54,000

Average Salary* (U.S.)

\$55,150

**Number of Licenses
in Massachusetts**

8,469

* According to cbsalary.com

How to become a Physical Therapist

- All applicants must submit an application to Professional Credential Services (PCS) at www.pcshq.com.
- An applicant must take and pass the National Physical Therapy examination, provide documentation of good moral character, and earn a degree from an American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) accredited program.



**Division of
Professional Licensure**

Better businesses. Smarter consumers.

www.mass.gov/dpl

A Day in the Life of a PHYSICAL THERAPIST

**By Kathleen Barnes , Member of the Board
of Allied Health Professionals**

What made you want to become a Physical Therapist?

I always knew that I wanted to help individuals and to teach. Physical therapy was a natural fit for me. I credit my freshman college adviser as well as resident assistance with providing the guidance that helped me choose the career path that was right for me.

What should people know before they enter your field?

People who are interested in this profession should pursue Physical Therapy as a career if they want to make a difference in the world and help others. For a more detailed look into the field, I would recommend that individuals go to www.APTA.org (the website of the American Physical Therapy Association) to watch a great video on the life of a physical therapist and a physical therapy assistant.

What is a typical work day like for you?

I am currently in the college environment teaching. My day is filled with classes, meetings, and advising students. I typically work 8 hour days, although it is not uncommon for me to work up to 10 or 12 hours per day.

Website: www.mass.gov/dpl

Email: dpl.outreach@state.ma.us

Becoming a Plumber

The Numbers:

Average Salary* (Boston)

\$53,849

Average Salary* (U.S.)

\$40,090

**Number of Licenses
in Massachusetts**

25,605

* According to cbsalary.com

How to become a Plumber

- Must have received high school diploma or high school equivalency certificate.
- Must be licensed as an apprentice in compliance with MGL Chapter 142, Section 3a.
- Shall possess not less than 3 years of practical experience.
- Shall have not less than 300 hours of theory from a school approved by the Massachusetts State Department of Education or the Board of Examiners of Plumbers and Gas Fitters.
- Take and pass the Journeyman plumbing examination.

****After September 1, 2008, applicants will be subject to new licensing qualifications which will consist of an increase of practical time from 3 to 5 years and theory from 300 to 550 school hours**



**Division of
Professional Licensure**

Better businesses. Smarter consumers.

www.mass.gov/dpl

A Day in the Life of a PLUMBER

**By Paul Kennedy, Member of the Board of
State Examiners of Plumbers and Gas Fitters**

What made you want to become a Plumber?

I had the opportunity to grow up in the plumbing business and in my early teens worked with my dad in the South End of Boston doing mostly jobbing (small residential work). I would work in the shop after school each day and all summer, as well as a half day on Saturdays.

What should people know before they enter your field?

The one piece of advice I have found to be best over the years is to be honest with yourself. If you enjoy working with your hands and working with others, then you should pursue plumbing. Don't spend everyday of your life not enjoying what you're doing.

What is a typical workday like for you?

My day starts at 6:00 a.m. at the office and ends at 5:00 p.m. in the evening. My partner and I sit down each day at 6:15 a.m. to confirm where all the employees are working. After that I go to job sites to check on progress, as well as to complete project cost estimates, and later finish any follow up paperwork.

Website: www.mass.gov/dpl

Email: dpl.outreach@state.ma.us

Becoming a Psychologists

The Numbers:

Average Salary* (Boston)

\$60,157

Average Salary* (U.S.)

\$71,077

**Number of Licenses
in Massachusetts**

5,179

* According to cbsalary.com

How to become a Psychologists

- Complete a 4 year doctoral degree program, approved by the American Psychologists Association.
- 1600 hours of approved clinical internship (pre-doctoral).
- 1600 hours of approved clinical experience (post-doctoral).
- All experience must be with the supervision/ collaboration of an approved supervisor. 200 hours required.
- Good moral character (references and possible criminal history background check).
- Pass the National EPPP exam.



**Division of
Professional Licensure**

Better businesses. Smarter consumers.

www.mass.gov/dpl

A Day in the Life of a PSYCHOLOGIST

By Anonymous

What made you want to become a Psychologist?

I first became interested in psychology during junior high and into high school by reading books about child psychology and psychotherapy. My interest continued into college where I majored in human development and family studies, all the while taking many psychology courses. After college, I obtained a doctoral degree in psychology from a qualifying doctoral program, which was followed by one year internship and a comprehensive state and national examination.

What should people know before they enter your field?

People who are interested in this profession should understand that while the field of psychology is intrinsically interesting, the road to becoming a psychologist can be long and one must be sure this is the career path for them. It is a field one should be truly committed to and psychologists should be committed to life long learning throughout their career. Also, keep in mind that in many parts of the country there are more mental health professionals than there are jobs, and one's income can be significantly impacted by health insurance policies and management.

What is a typical work day like for you?

I go to my private office, and see couples, families, children, adolescents, and adults in individual and family therapy, addressing the specific mental health and relationship issues that have brought them to psychotherapy. I read articles and books, do continuing education, meet with and talk to colleagues about shared cases or in peer consultation, do my professional billing, call insurance companies to find out why they aren't paying claims, call parents of child clients to discuss issues, and do other practice management tasks.

Psychologists also may do things other than psychotherapy. Psychologists do psychological and neuropsychological assessments, consult to schools and other organizations, teach, do research, etc.

Website: www.mass.gov/dpl

Email: dpl.outreach@state.ma.us

Becoming a Real Estate Appraiser

The Numbers:

Average Salary* (Boston)

\$70,824

Average Salary* (U.S.)

\$46,358

**Number of Licenses
in Massachusetts**

3,879

* According to cbsalary.com

How to become a Real Estate Appraiser

Entry Level (trainee)

- 45 hours of Real Estate Appraisal Education.

Lowest Residential Level

- 2 years experience in appraisal files.
- 105 hours of Real Estate Appraisal education.
- Pass the examination.

Residential Level

- 2,500 total hours of experience in practical appraisals.
- Additional 50 hours of Real Estate Appraisal education.
- Associate degree or equivalent.
- Pass an examination.

Highest Level Residential

- 3,000 total hours Real Estate Appraisal Education.
- Bachelor's degree or equivalent.
- Pass an examination.



**Division of
Professional Licensure**

Better businesses. Smarter consumers.

www.mass.gov/dpl

A Day in the Life of a REAL ESTATE APPRAISER

**By Michael P. Giannelli, Board Member of
the Board of Registration of Real Estate
Appraisers**

What made you want to become a real estate appraiser?

I began my career as a real estate sales person and later managed a family real estate competitor who had entered the appraisal field to see if I would be interested in a partnership in an appraisal company. It did interest me so I began to take the necessary appraisal courses to get licensed.

What should people know before they enter your field?

It is helpful, but not necessary, to have some prior real estate knowledge. Even more important than prior knowledge is proper training by an individual who can help you become successful in the industry. It is also important to be aware that it can take time to generate substantial income after education and licensing costs. However, there are financial benefits over the long term.

What is a typical work day like for you?

My typical day consists of making appointments with homeowners and real estate brokers, traveling, inspecting properties, performing field work, typing appraisal reports, and conversing with my attorney and lender clients.

Website: www.mass.gov/dpl

Email: dpl.outreach@state.ma.us

Becoming a Real Estate Broker

The Numbers:

Average Salary* (Boston)

\$43,327

Average Salary* (U.S.)

\$39,201

**Number of Licenses
in Massachusetts**

82,995

* According to cbsalary.com

How to become a Real Estate Broker or Salesperson

- **Complete pre-licensing education (24 hours of the Board created curriculum) to become a salesperson. You can start as a salesperson and move up to a broker.**
- **Take and pass the salesperson examination (consisting of a general practice and state section).**
- **Salespeople need to affiliate with a licensed broker to work. Salespeople need to work for at least one year (25 hours a week) if they wish to become brokers.**
- **Those salespeople who want to be brokers need to take the pre-licensing broker educational course (30 hours of the Board created curriculum).**
- **Salespeople need to take and pass the broker examination (consisting of a general practice and state section).**



**Division of
Professional Licensure**

Better businesses. Smarter consumers.

www.mass.gov/dpl

A Day in the Life of a REAL ESTATE BROKER OR SALESPERSON

By, L. Bradley Hutchinson

What made you decide to become a Real Estate Broker?

I observed a local real estate broker that was very active in our community and decided to investigate the profession. After deciding that I wanted to pursue this career path, I attended Real Estate School.

What should people know before they enter your field?

People that are interested in this profession should be aware that it is a changing business that requires continual updates of information. You should be informed about the hot and cold cycles of the business to be prepared for income changes.

I would also advise individuals to work with a firm with a spotless reputation. While a large firm can be good, it is not necessarily better than a small firm.

What is a typical work day like for you?

A typical work day for many in this field would include working with buyers and sellers of properties, finding these buyers and sellers, showing properties, working with attorneys, developing promotion, and understanding listing procedures. Good agents can often put in a 50 hour week.

Website: www.mass.gov/dpl

Email: dpl.outreach@state.ma.us

Becoming a Social Worker

The Numbers:

Average Salary* (Boston)

\$57,809

Average Salary* (U.S.)

\$49,702

**Number of Licenses
in Massachusetts**

20,498

* According to cbsalary.com



How to become a Social Worker

- Master's Degree in Social Work.
- 2 years of post graduate clinical work.
- Pass the Clinical Level Exam.
- Good moral character (references and possible criminal history background check).
- Complete 30 hours of Continuing Education every 2 years.
- This level must have an LCSW prior to application.
- This level can practice clinical therapy in an independent setting (i.e. private practice).



**Division of
Professional Licensure**

Better businesses. Smarter consumers.

www.mass.gov/dpl

A Day in the Life of a SOCIAL WORKER

By Anonymous

What made you want to become a Social Worker?

During one of my senior seminars as a Psychology major in college, I was required to volunteer or intern at an agency that was geared toward the prevention of family violence. I chose to volunteer with the Parental Stress Line, a hotline that aimed to be an outlet and resource for stressed out parents. After college I decided that my prior background in crisis intervention at the Parental Stress Line would make me well suited for a position with the Child-At-Risk Hotline, the Department of Social Service's emergency after-hours hotline. After three years at the hotline, I decided that social work was for me – I enjoyed it and it challenged me in ways that other things did not. I then enrolled in an MSW program and, through my clinical internships at school, learned working with adults with trauma histories suited me best.

What should people know before they enter your field?

Individuals who are interested in social work should know it is a very rewarding profession that requires a lot of physical and emotional energy. It is important to have a good support network in place and to know how to best take care of yourself.

What is a typical work day like for you?

I am a clinical social worker, so I provide therapy to adults at a local counseling center. I usually meet with my clients for 50 minutes, once or twice per week.

Website: www.mass.gov/dpl

Email: dpl.outreach@state.ma.us

Becoming a Veterinarian

The Numbers:

Average Salary* (Boston)
\$76,481

Average Salary* (U.S.)
\$78,842

**Number of Licenses
in Massachusetts**
2,675

* According to cbsalary.com



How to become a Veterinarian

- Obtain a Doctoral Degree in Veterinary Medicine (highly competitive 4 year program, after completing a Bachelor of Science degree).
- Pass the National exam (NAVLE).
- Pass the state jurisprudence exam.
- Must complete 15 hours of Continuing education every year.



Division of
Professional Licensure

Better businesses. Smarter consumers.

www.mass.gov/dpl

A Day in the Life of a **VETERINARIAN**

By, Edward Leonard, Chairman

Is Veterinary Medicine Right for You?

Today's veterinarians are extremely dedicated and willing to work long, difficult hours to save the life of an animal or help solve a public health crisis. Among the personal attributes that contribute to a successful career in veterinary medicine are:

A SCIENTIFIC MIND—Individuals who are interested in veterinary medicine should have an inquiring mind and keen powers of observation.

Aptitude and interest in the biological sciences are important.

Veterinarians must maintain a lifelong interest in scientific learning and must genuinely like and understand animals.

GOOD COMMUNICATION SKILLS—Veterinarians should be able to meet, talk, and work well with a variety of people. Compassion is an essential attribute for success, especially for veterinarians working with pet owners who form strong bonds with their pets.

MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE—Many work environments (e.g., private or corporate clinical practice, governmental agencies, public health programs) require that veterinarians manage other employees and businesses. Basic managerial and leadership skills make these positions much more rewarding.

The Road to Becoming a Veterinarian

Students interested in a career in veterinary medicine should perform well in general science and biology in junior high school and pursue a strong science, mathematics, and biology program in high school. Before applying to veterinary college/school, students must successfully complete university level pre-veterinary undergraduate course work. Each college or school of veterinary medicine establishes its own pre-veterinary requirements, but typically these include demonstrating basic language and communication skills and completion of courses in the social sciences, humanities, mathematics, biology, chemistry, and physics.

Admission to veterinary school is highly competitive with the number of qualified applicants admitted to veterinary schools varying from year to year. Applicants may be required to take a standardized test (for example, the Graduate Record Examination). Approximately 80% of entering students are female.

There are presently 28 AVMA Council on Education accredited colleges/schools of veterinary medicine in the United States, four in Canada, and eight in other countries. Each school is regularly evaluated by the Council on Education and must maintain the quality of its program to remain accredited.

Most veterinary schools require applicants to submit applications through the Veterinary Medical College Application Service (VMCAS). For information about VMCAS, application requirements, applicant data statistics and other admission resources, visit <http://www.aavmc.org/vmcas/vmcas.htm>.

After completing the required veterinary medical curriculum (usually over a period of four years), many graduates choose to pursue additional education in one of 20 AVMA-recognized veterinary specialties (surgery, internal medicine, animal behavior, dentistry, ophthalmology, pathology, laboratory animal medicine, preventive medicine, etc.) or graduate school.

Website: www.mass.gov/dpl

Email: dpl.outreach@state.ma.us

Becoming a Chiropractor

The Numbers:

Average Salary* (Boston)

\$84,847

Average Salary* (U.S.)

\$ 91,616

**Number of Licenses
in Massachusetts**

2,117

* According to cbsalary.com

How to become a Chiropractor

- An applicant must apply for licensure through Professional Credential Services (PCS).
- An applicant must be at least 18 years old, be of good moral character, completed at least two years in a curriculum leading to a bachelor's degree in liberal arts or science, and have earned a degree from an accredited chiropractic program.
- Passed an examination by the National Board of Chiropractors Examiners.
- The Chiropractor Board then requires applicants to pass a jurisprudence examination and personally appear before the Board prior to granting licensure.



**Division of
Professional Licensure**

Better businesses. Smarter consumers.

www.mass.gov/dpl

A Day in the Life of a CHIROPRACTOR

**By Wayne Comeau, Vice Chairman of the
Board of Registration of Chiropractors**

What made you want to become a chiropractor?

I was injured at work and went to a chiropractor for treatment. I was so impressed with the doctor and with the profession that I decided to pursue a career in the field of Chiropractic care. I then submitted an application to Chiropractic College and was accepted at the graduate level.

What should people know before they come into your field?

As with any of the healing arts fields, it is heavily penetrated via managed care resulting in some practice consternation at times. It is a great field to be in and it has many rewards, not all of which are monetary.

What is a typical work day like for you?

I treat patients 10 hours per day, 3.5 days per week.

Website: www.mass.gov/dpl

Email: dpl.outreach@state.ma.us

Becoming a Radio & TV Technician

The Numbers:

Average Salary* (Boston)

\$36,495

Average Salary* (U.S.)

\$31,775

**Number of Licenses
in Massachusetts**

1,116

* According to cbsalary.com

How to become a Radio & TV Technician

- **Must be at least 18 years old.**
- **Work under the supervision of a licensed Master Technician in the repair and maintenance of radio and television receivers.**
- **Obtain a permit through the Board of Radio and Television Technicians.**



**Division of
Professional Licensure**

Better businesses. Smarter consumers.

www.mass.gov/dpl

A Day in the Life of a RADIO AND TELEVISION TECHNICIAN

**By George Chalikis, Vice Chair of the Board
of Registration of Radio and
Television Technicians**

What made you want to be a Radio/Television Technician?

In high school I participated in an electronics program for repairs of radio and TVs, which lead to a part time job as a technical apprentice. After high school I enrolled in a technical school where I received my formal training.

What is a typical work day for you?

I work from 7:00 a.m. in the morning to 6:00 p.m. at night. I do house calls in the morning and I'm physically in the store between 12-6.

What should people know before they enter your field?

A person that is interested in this profession should possess substantial background knowledge of computers and electronics.

**Website: www.mass.gov/dpl
Email: dpl.outreach@state.ma.us**

Becoming a Sanitarian

The Numbers:

Average Salary* (Boston)

\$56,907

Average Salary* (U.S.)

\$52,644

**Number of Licenses
in Massachusetts**

385

* According to cbsalary.com

How to become a Sanitarian

- Obtain a Bachelor's degree from an accredited school \ with 30 hours in basic science.
- One year full time work experience.
- Pass the State Board of Registration of Sanitarians.



**Division of
Professional Licensure**

Better businesses. Smarter consumers.

www.mass.gov/dpl

A Day in the Life of a SANITARIAN

By Gregory Erickson

What made you want to become a Sanitarian?

I decided to pursue a career as a Sanitarian due to my personal interest and training in public health.

What should people know before they enter your field?

Individuals who are interested in becoming a Sanitarian should be able to prioritize well and coordinate with others on a daily basis.

***Website: www.mass.gov/dpl
Email: dpl.outreach@state.ma.us***

Becoming a Speech Language/ Audiologist

The Numbers:

Average Salary* (Boston)

\$54,982

Average Salary* (U.S.)

\$57,396

**Number of Licenses
in Massachusetts**

2,675

* According to cbsalary.com

How to become a Speech Language/ Audiologist

- The applicant must provide a letter of verification from American Speech-Language Hearing Association a letter of verification from any state in which a license is held, and a completed application. Otherwise, an applicant must complete an application for licensure, provide a supervised professional practice plan for all clinical fellowship positions, an official transcript of a Masters degree or a Bachelor's degree in Speech-Language Pathology or Audiology, at least 400 hours in supervised practicum clock hours, and the results of a Praxis score from the Educational Testing Services.
- Speech Pathology or Audiology Assistant: An applicant must provide an official academic transcript, 20 hours of observation of clinical practice by a licensed Speech-Language Pathologist or Audiologist, and a completed application.



**Division of
Professional Licensure**

Better businesses. Smarter consumers.

www.mass.gov/dpl

A Day in the Life of a SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST/ AUDIOLOGIST

By Barbara Morris

What made you decide to become an Audiologist?

I began college at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst as a pre-med major. As part of an Embryology course, I had to write a paper on cleft palate. That led me to discover the Communication Disorders Department at Umass. The following semester I changed my major and graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Communication Disorders. I subsequently went on to graduate studies in Audiology.

What should people know before they enter your field?

Anyone who is interested in the field of Audiology should consider themselves to be a self-motivated, inquisitive people-person. I also suggest that before entering the field you spend some time shadowing an audiologist for a day to see if this is the type of work that might interest you. For more information about Audiology, look online and visit websites for the American Academy of Audiology and the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association to learn about the many aspects of this field.

What is a typical work day like for you?

I actually work at three different locations. At Baystate Franklin, I perform hearing evaluations, fit hearing aides, and counsel patients. I also follow all of our pediatric patients who are integrated in the public schools as an Educational Audiologist to be sure that their hearing aides and specialized equipment are working properly. I also serve as a consultant to teachers and other school staff regarding hearing loss and the individual needs of the hard of hearing child.

At Baystate Medical Center, I coordinate the infant hearing screening program for our three-hospital system (approximately 5000 births/year) and do all outpatient re-screens. I also do a higher level test called auditory brainstem response (ABR) testing on infants and young children who do not pass their infant screens or who are suspected of having hearing loss but are unable to respond reliably in a typical test situation. I also work two afternoons per week in an ENT office doing hearing evaluations.

Website: www.mass.gov/dpl

Email: dpl.outreach@state.ma.us

Becoming a Optometrist

The Numbers:

Average Salary* (Boston)

\$73,662

Average Salary* (U.S.)

\$91,987

**Number of Licenses
in Massachusetts**

1,489

* According to cbsalary.com

How to become a Optometrist

- Must be 18 years of age.
- Good moral character.
- Graduated from a duly-accredited school of Optometry.
- Successfully completed the written and clinical examinations in theoretic and practical Optometry.
- Pass a written examination on the statutes, rules, and regulations governing the practice of Optometry in Massachusetts.



**Division of
Professional Licensure**

Better businesses. Smarter consumers.

www.mass.gov/dpl

A Day in the Life of an OPTOMETRIST

**By Bruce Rakusin, Member of the Board of
Registration in Optometry**

What made you want to become an optometrist?

My father was an Optometrist who graduated from the Massachusetts College of Optometry in the early 1940s. I grew up seeing him in his private practice in Ohio and thought it would be a great profession for me.

What should people know before they enter your field?

A person who is interested in this profession should be aware that the current requirements include obtaining a four-year undergraduate degree followed by four years in the college of Optometry to receive your professional degree. It is also ideal for someone to be interested in the sciences and math, as these concepts are used on a daily basis.

What is a typical work day like for you?

I examine the eyes of all the patients who are scheduled to see me during the day. I use complex, high-tech examination equipment to assess the visual problems of each of my patients. I typically see 2 to 3 patients in an hour and listen closely to their reason for coming to see me.

Website: www.mass.gov/dpl

Email: dpl.outreach@state.ma.us

Becoming a Mental Health Counselor

The Numbers:

Average Salary* (Boston)
\$49,756

Average Salary* (U.S.)
\$46,670

**Number of Licenses
in Massachusetts**
5,815

* According to cbsalary.com

How to become a Mental Health Counselor

- 60 credit Master's Degree in Counseling or a related field, with coursework in 10 specific content areas.
- 700 hours of hands-on experience as part of Masters Curriculum.
- 2 years, full time (or part time equivalent) of supervised, post Master's Degree, clinical counseling experience in an agency setting. Supervision requirements are very specific.
- Pass the national exam .
- Good moral character (references and possible criminal history background check).
- Must complete 30 hours of approved continuing education classes every 2 years.



**Division of
Professional Licensure**

Better businesses. Smarter consumers.

www.mass.gov/dpl

A Day in the Life of a MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELOR

**By Rev. Ronald Wozniak, Member of the
Board of Registration of Allied Mental Health
and Human Services Professionals**

What made you want to become a Mental Health Counselor?

I came to Boston College with the intention of pursuing a degree in physics, but I found that the requirement of getting a degree in philosophy as well seemed to interfere with the schedule for the required math and science courses. I realized I'd likely have to spend an extra two years just to get a Bachelor's Degree in science. So I dropped science and got my degree in theology and philosophy instead.

While studying I learned to ask questions about life and its meaning. This was all well and good but the science part of my brain wasn't satisfied. It kept asking me about what happens when things don't work well? I found myself drawn more and more to these sorts of questions and that led me toward psychology. It didn't seem all that different, in some ways, from physics. I decided to move on to a Master's Degree in counseling psychology.

What should people know before they enter your field?

I believe an on-going interest in learning, an open mind regarding theories, and a genuine interest in the welfare of others are important attributes for a counselor or anyone in the field of mental health. Always being willing to be surprised by oneself would be another useful trait; there's so much to learn about ourselves that also enriches our practice.

What is a typical work day like for you?

I oversee several departments and run an operation that is divided into three distinct groups. These groups are the active Jesuit Community, the health center dedicated to the skilled nursing needs of the ill and infirmed Jesuit priests and brothers as well as those needing assisted living skills, and the retreat/conference center.

We have over 100 staff persons and about 95 residents. I'm never at a loss for things to do.

***Website: www.mass.gov/dpl
Email: dpl.outreach@state.ma.us***

Becoming an Embalmers

The Numbers:

Average Salary* (Boston)

\$52,072

Average Salary* (U.S.)

\$36,077

**Number of Licenses
in Massachusetts**

2,592

* According to cbsalary.com

How to become an Embalmers

- Graduate with an AS from an accredited school.
- Pass the National Board (International Conference of Examining Boards).
- Pass State Board of Registration of Funeral Directors and Embalmers.
- Get sworn in by the Board of Registration of Funeral Directors and Embalmers.



**Division of
Professional Licensure**

Better businesses. Smarter consumers.

www.mass.gov/dpl

A Day in the Life of an EMBALMER

By, David Brezniak

What made you want to become an Embalmer?

At the age of 14 I began assisting my grandfather and father at our family funeral business. After graduating from high school, I then went on to a 2 year college funeral program.

What should people know before they come into your field?

People who are interested in this profession should know that it requires extreme commitment. Often times the days are long, and there may be times in which you are required to miss vacations and family events. However, you are rewarded daily by knowing that you have given families a positive experience during a difficult time.

What do you enjoy most about your profession?

The aspect that I enjoy most about my profession is that I assist in transforming a negative experience into a positive one. It is extremely gratifying to know that you have helped make the most out of possibly the saddest day of a family's life.

Website: www.mass.gov/dpl

Email: dpl.outreach@state.ma.us

Becoming an Electrologist

The Numbers:

Average Salary* (Boston)
\$22,938

Average Salary* (U.S.)
\$18,802

**Number of Licenses
in Massachusetts**
815

* According to cbsalary.com

How to become an Electrologist

- Graduate from an accredited school.
- Pass the state Board of Registration of Electrologists examination.



Division of
Professional Licensure

Better businesses. Smarter consumers.

www.mass.gov/dpl

A Day in the Life of an ELECTROLOGIST

**By Charlotte Bosco Fitzpatrick , Member of
the Board of Registration of Electrologists**

What made you want to become an Electrologist?

I decided to become an electrologist in the mid 1970's when I was a single mother raising two daughters and I needed income for our growing needs.

What should people know before they enter your field?

People interested in this profession must know that it is a serious commitment, especially when you are the sole proprietor of the business. Not only are you the one who performs the electrology services, but most electrologists also do the reception, bookkeeping, sterilizing/sanitation work, and other administrative tasks. Clients should not be treated as a number and attention should be paid to their individual and specific needs. Also, you must possess the virtue of patience to perform an individual's treatment.

What is a typical work day like for you?

Electrolysis treatment is different with each patient who enters the treatment room. A typical work day could range anywhere from five to 15 or even 20 people per day. The higher the number of those treated means some have treatment time 15 minutes or less. There are days when only six clients have treatment that may take eight hours as each will be treated in hour or half hour sessions.

Website: www.mass.gov/dpl

Email: dpl.outreach@state.ma.us

Becoming a Dispensing Optician

The Numbers:

Average Salary* (Boston)

\$54,075

Average Salary* (U.S.)

\$31,974

**Number of Licenses
in Massachusetts**

1,759

* According to cbsalary.com

How to become a Dispensing Optician

- Graduate from an accredited 2 year educational program in opticianry or successfully complete one year of education in an accredited educational program in opticianry.
- Successfully complete an apprenticeship of 3,000 hours/18 months or successfully complete an apprenticeship of 6,000 hours in no less than 3 years.
- Achieve a passing score on the American Board of Opticianry examination and the Massachusetts State practical examination.



**Division of
Professional Licensure**

Better businesses. Smarter consumers.

www.mass.gov/dpl

A Day in the Life of a DISPENSING OPTICIAN

**By William Carleton, Vice Chair of the Board
of Registration of Dispensing Opticians**

What made you want to become a Dispensing Optician?

A friend, who was an optician, arranged an interview for me at the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary. I then became an apprentice Optician and later passed the American Board of Opticianry Examination and the practical exam administered by the Board.

What should people know before they enter your field?

A person who is interested in this field should have an aptitude for mathematics, physics, and anatomy. It is also an ideal profession for a people person.

What is a typical work day like for you?

I come to work at 5:00 a.m. to review insurance forms and patient files. I start making telephone calls at 8:00 a.m. and see at least 15 patients. Depending on staff availability, I work in retail sales, in the clinic with patients directly, or in the lab adjusting and making eyeglasses.

Website: www.mass.gov/dpl

Email: dpl.outreach@state.ma.us

Becoming a Podiatrist

The Numbers:

Average Salary* (Boston)

\$147,280

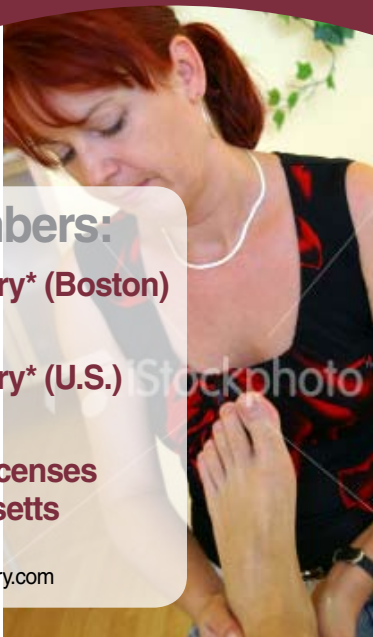
Average Salary* (U.S.)

\$138,656

**Number of Licenses
in Massachusetts**

564

* According to cbsalary.com



How to become a Podiatrist

- Licensure by examination .
- Completed application, including verification of graduation from an approved college of podiatric medicine and original results of applicant's National Board exam.
- Satisfactory proof that the applicant has completed a residency in a duly-licensed clinic.
- Must submit 3 original letters from individuals who have known the applicant for at least 10 years attesting to the applicant's good moral character.
- A score of 75% or higher on the National Board of Podiatric Medical examination and the PMLexis examination .



**Division of
Professional Licensure**

Better businesses. Smarter consumers.

www.mass.gov/dpl

A Day in the Life of a PODIATRIST

By, LeRoy J. Kelly, DPM

What made you decide to become a Podiatrist?

Both of my parents were podiatrists, and I was influenced to follow in their foot steps.

What should people know before they enter your field?

Individuals who are interested in pursuing this profession should know the importance of studying hard and going to college so that they can attain the required education to be a podiatrist. Also, people who are best suited for podiatry are those who are warm, caring, and have a desire to help people.

What is a typical work day like for you?

I typically work 50 hours per week working with sports medicine, children, adults, office and hospital patients.

Website: www.mass.gov/dpl

Email: dpl.outreach@state.ma.us

Becoming a Hearing Instrument Specialist

The Numbers:

Average Salary* (Boston)
\$40,041

Average Salary* (U.S.)
\$37,597

**Number of Licenses
in Massachusetts**
122

* According to cbsalary.com

How to become a Hearing Instrument Specialist

- A one-year apprenticeship completion letter.
- Proof of having passed the International Hearing Society home study course.
- Money order for \$393.00.
- A 2"x2" passport photo.
- Completed application that has been notarized.
- Proof of successful completion of the examination.



**Division of
Professional Licensure**

Better businesses. Smarter consumers.

www.mass.gov/dpl

A Day in the Life of a HEARING INSTRUMENT SPECIALIST

**By Rudolph Szady, Chairman of the Board of
Registration of Hearing Instrument Specialists**

What made you want to become a Hearing Instrument Specialist?

A friend offered me a position testing and fitting hearing aides. The first time I was able to help an elderly grandmother hear her grandchild, I was hooked. I read as much as I could on the subject of hearing, hearing disorders, and treatment. Eventually I was able to purchase my own business that I have run now for 30 years.

What should people know before they come into your field?

The qualifications best suited for a Hearing Instrument Specialist is patience and the ability to listen. A person becomes hard of hearing over a long period of time and sometimes it may take years for them to agree to use a hearing aide. When this person finally comes before you, it is important that you listen as well as perform an accurate test. From this meeting to the eventual fitting of a hearing instrument, you will be testing, validating your outcomes, and counseling your patient so that they can have a better quality of life.

What is a typical workday like for you?

My day starts and ends in my office where we have people scheduled for hearing tests or service on their existing hearing aids. Sometimes we need to change the settings of a hearing aid. This is accomplished via a computer and an interface to the hearing aids. I typically work 40 to 60 hours per week and am rewarded daily with the knowledge that I have made someone's life better because I persuaded them to use a hearing aide.

Website: www.mass.gov/dpl

Email: dpl.outreach@state.ma.us